First Amendment Rights of Public High School Student Journalists

An SPLC guide to determining if an act of censorship by school officials is legal

**BEGIN HERE**

Do you live in ...?

- Arkansas
- California
- Colorado
- District of Columbia
- Illinois
- Iowa
- Kansas
- Maryland
- Massachusetts
- Nevada
- North Dakota
- Oregon
- Pennsylvania
- Rhode Island
- Vermont
- Washington

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**THE TINKER STANDARD**

Can school officials show that their censorship is based on a reasonable expectation that the content would cause a material and substantial disruption of school activities or an invasion of the rights of others?

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**THE HAZELWOOD STANDARD**

Can school officials show that they have a valid educational purpose for their censorship and that the censorship is not intended to silence a particular viewpoint that they disagree with or that is unpopular?

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For advice on what to do next, or if you have further questions about your legal rights as a student journalist or media adviser, contact the Student Press Law Center:

(202) 785-5450 • www.splc.org

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